

## **SUMMARY OF THEMES**

### **Town Hall Meeting on Race, School Discipline, and Social Justice City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males Bloomington Indiana September 28, 2004**

#### **CONCERNS/INTERPRETATION OF PROBLEM**

- It is a collective, societal attitude that needs to be addressed
- Time for action
- Research shows higher rates of suspension related to feelings of non-acceptance in schools
- Racist remarks/attitudes in the schools between children, teachers toward Black children
- Many Black students and their parents in MCCSC feel alienated from, not cared for by school/system
- What about the right to legal counsel/due process in expulsion?
- Teachers are not being held accountable for poor classroom management skills, or perceived racist attitudes
- Black students are left out of extracurricular activities, not actively asked to participate
- There is no recognition of Black student culture, such as Black History Month
- Perception that expectations for behavior is different depending on student race

#### **NEEDS**

- Racial Justice Task force would like assistance for CSBM in implementing recommendations on criminal justice issues
- Professional development in behavior/classroom management
- Address student mobility issues, particularly in low-income schools
- MCCSC needs more resources for students at risk for expulsion

## **CURRENT WAYS DISPROPORTIONALITY IN EXPULSIONS IS BEING ADDRESSED**

- MCCSC has recognized there is a problem
- MCCSC has created a diversity committee that has met for the past year
- MCCSC is actively recruiting minority teachers
- MCCSC has instituted pre-expulsion conferences
- MCCSC has outside experts working on these issues

## **SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Explore how the pre-expulsion conferences can be made successful
- Demand transparency, reveal the data
- Find ways to better use IU as a resource (i.e. mentors)
- On-going forum of students, school officials and law enforcement addressing these issues
- Provide clarity on what is being addressed in diversity training for teachers
- Find ways to recruit, reach out to Black students for extracurricular activities, better engage them in school

--Genevieve Williamson